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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BAGHDAD 002480

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/13/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [IZ](#) [UN](#)

SUBJECT: CHARGE ADVANCES USG APPROACH TO CONSTITUTION AND
SUNNI INCLUSION WITH UNAMI

Classified By: Classified by James F. Jeffrey, Charge d'Affaires, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary. Charge and DCM emphasized the importance of meeting the August 15 constitution drafting deadline in a June 12 meeting with UNAMI, SRSQ Qazi. Qazi affirmed UNAMI, SRSQ support to helping Iraq successfully reach the drafting deadline and provided an overview of their efforts and challenges to date. Charge explained that US policy was to actively engage Iraqi decision makers to ensure the issue of Sunni inclusion was resolved without further delay. UN's Haysom confirmed from his work with the Parliament that it is not disposed to grant the Sunni Arabs more than 15 additional seats in the commission. UNAMI is providing the TNA, SRSQ Constitution Committee with expert technical advice. Finally, UNAMI sees federalism, distribution of natural resources and form of governance as the key issues for the constitutional debate. End Summary.

August 15 Constitution Drafting Deadline

2. (C) In a June 12 meeting with SRSQ Qazi, Charge and DCM emphasized the paramount importance of helping Iraq meet the August 15 constitution drafting deadline. UNAMI and the international community must do everything possible to ensure Iraq successfully completes its constitution in a timely manner stated Charge to protect the unique result Iraq achieved on January 30 at great sacrifice to many people. If Iraq fails to meet the August 15 deadline, said Charge, the insurgency will be emboldened at the expense of security throughout Iraq.

3. (C) Qazi acknowledged Charge, SRSQ points stating that not a single Iraqi had spoken to UNAMI of delaying the August 15 deadline. While there is a need to ensure the transparency and ownership of the development process by all Iraqis said Qazi, the UN is firmly committed to the August drafting deadline. UNAMI Constitution Support Team Head Fink Haysom added that he fully expects the TNA, SRSQ Constitution Committee to press on to August 15 without delay and, should the constitution not be exactly completed by that date, the TNA will most likely finish the constitution after August 15 without invoking the TAL, SRSQ provisions calling for the dissolution of the ITG.

Internal Sunni Power Struggle Drives Inclusion Debate

4. (C) Charge explained that all Iraqis involved in Sunni inclusion negotiations now recognize the miscalculation made by establishing a 55-member Constitution Committee with only two Sunnis and, as a consequence, agree on the need to add additional Sunnis; the only question is how many and who. USG policy is to engage Iraqi decision makers at the highest levels of our government to encourage them to add 15 additional Sunni members selected by Sunnis, to the Constitution Committee stated Charge.

5. (C) Qazi agreed that time is of the essence in adding Sunnis to the committee and that the Sunnis themselves should recognize that the exact number of additional Sunnis within the Committee is not critical in view of committee, SRSQ consensus decision-making methodology. Charge concurred adding that all sides in the debate must negotiate from the n 15.

6. (C) Qazi, Charge and DCM agreed that the current debate spoke more about internal Sunni power plays than any inter-sectarian matter. This debate, said Qazi is driven by Sunnis who are connecting their participation on the constitution committee with their future electoral opportunities. They are arguing for more positions on the committee because they cannot settle their own internal leadership squabbles. DCM agreed stating that the real debate was within the Sunni community over control, a debate that is intractable at present, but must be ended.

UNAMI Struggles to Recruit Personnel

17. (C) SRSQ Qazi complained to Charge and DCM that while UNAMI was successfully identifying talented professionals to serve on their constitution and elections teams, the convoluted nature of the UN,s compensation system was creating havoc. UN personnel must forgo 45 percent of their salary when they accept a position in Baghdad, claimed Qazi. For example, Carlos Valenzuela,s secretary, who was assigned to the UN,s Amman office, made more than Carlos did while he was in Baghdad. We hope UN Headquarters remedies this matter quickly said Qazi, or we will have great difficulty meeting our mandate.

Constitution Issues and Assistance

18. (C) Constitution Team Leader Haysom offered that UNAMI and international assistance to the Constitution Committee was proceeding quite well. While Chairman Hammoudi had initially been reluctant to embrace expert technical assistance, he had changed his attitude after a recent engagement where experts provided detailed advice on how to reach the August 15 deadline. Many members including Hammoudi were initially disinclined to embrace experts because they associated their views with western values that would be slanted toward a secular constitution. That perception appears to have been successfully surmounted, stated Haysom

19. (C) Addressing constitutional issues, Haysom opined that federalism and the division of natural resources would be the most vexing issues for Iraqis to resolve. Additionally, the form of governance will also be key to the successful incorporation of Kurdistan. Haysom said Iraqis would likely settle on a parliamentary system, although they seem enthralled by the idea of directly electing a President.

Irbil Middle Ring and IZ Security Concerns

10. (C) Qazi voiced his concern with impending changes to International Zone (IZ) security responsibilities and asked that UNAMI be kept informed of any upcoming changes so they could take appropriate action. DCM indicated there was no hard timelines for such changes, but that the International Zone would slowly but steadily change from green to amber to red over the next two years as the New Embassy Compound was completed and IZ security was turned over to Iraqi security forces. Qazi also mentioned that middle ring security in Irbil was still not functional as the Koreans were unwilling to provide escorts for UNAMI movements other than for VIPs.

11. (U) REO HILLA, REO BASRA, REO MOSUL, and REO KIRKUK, minimize considered.
Jeffrey